

Approved: September 6, 2012

**Rockville Environment Commission
Minutes of the Meeting of Tuesday, July 10, 2012
Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue**

Attendance

Commissioners Present: John Becker (by Phone), Steve Cardon, Julie Palakovich Carr (by phone), Kris Dighe, Alicia Hosmer, Beri Kravitz, Devinie Lye and Clark Reed

Commissioners Absent: None

Guests: Mark Pierzchala – City Council Liaison
Mark Charles, Environmental Management
Heather Gewandter, Environmental Management
Lea Rosenbohm, Commissioner Applicant
Ming Hu, Commissioner Applicant

Meeting Commencement

The meeting convened at 7:32 pm by Chair Dighe.

Approval of the Meeting Minutes

Approval of the June 12, 2012 meeting minutes was moved by Reed and seconded by Cardon without correction. The motion passed 5-0-3.

Zero Waste Presentation by Brenda Platt of the Institute of Local Self-Reliance

The organization is interested in promoting local food, energy generation and waste management. Highlights of the presentation include: The Institute is trying to encourage job creation by doing more with waste materials than burning them. Achieving zero waste is not likely, but it is an admirable goal and drives innovation and action. With its food waste collection program, San Francisco has already achieved 78% recycling and composting of its waste stream. Seventeen U.S. communities have set a zero waste goal. The Institute encourages unit based pricing: the less you throw away, the more you save.

Stormwater Ordinance Amendments

Heather Gewandter briefed the Commission on the history of the City's stormwater ordinance (City Code Chapter 19), the need for an update (State requiring revisions to the 1994 sediment and erosion controls section), and a deadline of January 27, 2012 to complete the task. We are modifying other parts of the ordinance and implementing rules to take advantage of the need to reopen the documents to make the State required changes. The Commission will be provided with a draft in September and is invited to review and make comments through the fall.

Recycling Outreach Plan

Commissioners Palakovich Carr and Kravitz presented a plan to improve recycling rates from 52% to 60 percent over the next several years. The Plan calls for more targeted education and outreach on the extent of materials that are recyclable, and encouraging the City and

neighborhood groups to provide more recycling opportunities at public gatherings and celebrations. Examine recycling trends by neighborhood and focus on those neighborhood associations and groups that lag behind others. The Commission will need the support of Environmental Management and the City graphics shop to achieve its goal. Outreach will include articles for Rockville Reports and maybe bill stuffers.

Littering Initiative

There is a problem with vacant homes receiving free and subscription newspapers and flyers. These materials collect and become litter on neighborhood sidewalks. After discussing the matter, Commissioners concluded that neighbors who know these homes are vacant should pick up the papers and recycling them so they do not accumulate.

Stream Clean Up Plan

The Environment Commission has adopted the Maryvale Creek and conducts clean ups once or twice each year. The Plan describes how these events will be organized and implemented in the future, including how they will be advertised.

Announcements

Chair Dighe has indicated that while he is interested in continuing to serve, he will not seek another year as Chair. He is encouraging other Commissioners to consider serving as Chair. An election for Chair is anticipated during the September meeting.

The Commission discussed moving the day of its regularly-scheduled monthly meetings and agreed that, commencing in September, the Commission meetings will be scheduled on the first Thursday of the month. Charles will reserve a meeting room for this new day (note the meeting time will continue to be 7:30).

On September 22, the Universities at Shady Grove are holding a *Maryland Day* and both the Commission and Environmental Management are invited to participate. It was decided that they would each share a booth at the event (10:00 - 3:00). The Commission will focus on recruiting committee members and volunteers for future projects.

In lieu of a business meeting in August, the Commission is interested in taking a tour of the new Police Station, including the green roof. Charles will make these arrangements for Wednesday, August 1.

Executive Session

Commissioner Kravitz moved and Cardon seconded to go into Executive Session to discuss the Candidates for the Commissioner vacancy. The motion passed 8-0-0. After a lengthy discussion, Commissioner Cardon moved and Reed seconded a motion to recommend that the Mayor fill the Commissioner vacancy with Lea Rosenbohm. The motion passed 8-0-0.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9:41 pm by unanimous acclamation.

Next Commission Meeting

The next Commission meeting is *tentatively* scheduled for **Thursday, October 4, 2012** at **7:30 pm** in the **Diamondback Conference Room** of the **Rockville City Hall**, **111 Maryland Avenue**, Rockville, Maryland, 20850. The public is invited to attend.